

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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FM US MISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2249

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4457

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, ET

SUBJECT: FORMER ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING

WITH COUNSELLOR OF MISSION GARMENT, SEPTEMBER 23.

1. FORMER ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ZEWDE GABRE-SELLASSIE CALLED ON MISSION COUNSELLOR GARMENT, SEPTEMBER 23. PREDICTABLY, ZEWDE EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN OVER FATE OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS IN ETHIOPIA. HE ALSO ADVISED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED AN ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION DATED TWO DAYS PRIOR TO THE EMPEROR'S DEATH, STATING THAT EMPEROR WOULD IN FACT BE KILLED BY MILITARY GOVERNMENT.

2. AT SAME TIME OF COMMUNICATION, ZEWDE CONTINUED, CLOSE MEMBERS OF HIS OWN FAMILY WERE MOVED FROM CONFINEMENT AT A PALACE TO ADDIS ABABA'S CENTRAL JAIL, WHERE THEY ARE HOUSED WITH "COMMON CRIMINALS".

3. ZEWDE THEREFORE ASKED IF WE COULD ASSIST IN INQUIRING AFTER THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY
C
PRINCESS TENAGUE WORK HAILE SELLASSIE
PRINCESS YESHASHE WORK YILMA
PRINCESS SARA GIZAW
PRINCESS IJIGAYEHU ASFA WOSSEN
PRINCESS AIDA DESHA
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PRINCESS RUTH DESHA

PRINCESS SEBEL DESHA

PRINCESS SOPHIA DESHA

PRINCESS ZURIASH

IN ADDITION TO ABOVE, ZEWDE ASKED ABOUT DAUGHTER OF
PRINCESS ZURIASH, AND INDICATED THAT THERE WERE TWO
OTHER WOMEN CONFINED WITH ABOVE GROUP.

4. SHOULD DEPT AGREE TO MAKE REQUEST WE WOULD APPRECIATE
LEARNING FATE OF ABOVE FROM EMBASSY ADDIS ABABA, IN ORDER
THAT WE MAY DISCREETLY TRANSMIT INFORMATION TO ZEWDE.
MOYNIHAN

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